

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 31

By Swann

A RESOLUTION to designate the City of Friendsville as the Pink Marble Capital of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, chartered by the State of Tennessee in 1953, the City of Friendsville was originally settled in the 1790s by members of the Religious Society of Friends, better known as the Quakers, and has been an important part of the history of Blount County and the State of Tennessee, especially in the production of marble utilized around the world; and

WHEREAS, marble has been quarried in Tennessee since at least 1838 and utilized for tombstones and early local homes and businesses; Tennessee marble first won national acclaim and recognition in 1869 when it was used in the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, officially recognized by the Tennessee State Geologist, pink marble from East Tennessee became renowned for its soft and rich colored hues of pink that were quarried by hundreds of laborers and utilized in thousands of buildings across the nation; and

WHEREAS, Friendsville's entrée into the marble industry was led by John J. Craig, who founded the first operation in the community in 1878; the second prominent Blount County operation was established by Leonard Endsley in Friendsville in 1949; and

WHEREAS, the Friendsville marble industry is now led by Tennessee Marble Company, which is the sole quarrier and supplier of Tennessee pink marble for dimensional stone purposes; and

WHEREAS, since opening its doors in 1993, Tennessee Marble Company has produced over one million square feet of stone products made from marble quarried in Friendsville, supplying marble for use in more than 2,000 buildings across the United States; and

WHEREAS, the many buildings and structures that have utilized Tennessee pink marble include the U.S. Capitol Visitors Center, the National Gallery of Art, and the National Museum of

American History in Washington, D.C.; the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; the Federal Courthouse in Davenport, Iowa; the Griffith Observatory in Los Angeles, California; the Kansas State Capitol in Topeka, Kansas; the Minnesota State Capitol in St. Paul, Minnesota; Grand Central Terminal in New York, New York; the Rhode Island State House in Providence, Rhode Island; the Art Institute of Chicago in Chicago, Illinois; and the Wyoming Supreme Court in Cheyenne, Wyoming; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee marble is a lasting building material, and Friendsville's distinctive pink marble is known and appreciated for its unique beauty across the country, and as Tennessee Marble Company is the sole quarrier and supplier of Tennessee pink marble for dimensional stone purposes, the City of Friendsville should be recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby designate the City of Friendsville as the Pink Marble Capital of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.